

RARE COIN COLLECTIONS WILL BE EXHIBITED HERE

By Thomas H. Chapman.

THE numismatists are coming to town with coin in their pockets, coin in their luggage and "coin" on their tongues.

This news does not signify, however, that Capital tradespeople should anticipate overeagerly the convention this month of the American Numismatic Association. For the numismatists are hoarders, after a fashion. Their treasure of coins is not for spending, but represents valuable collections from which the owners can read much of the history of man and man's exchange.

The ancient Greeks coined the word "numisma," from which is derived "numismatics," the science of coins and medals. The English word is a jaw-breaker, but so is "philatelist." So the stamp collectors are no better off from this standpoint than the coin lovers.

From the study of coins numismatists learn of the life and times of the periods at which the pieces are minted, of the art of past civilizations and of fragmentary bits of detail about peoples and places. All coins are of metal of some sort, hence are more durable than most other relics. They reveal ancient truths long sought by archeologists, confirm or deny age-old theories.

Many of the metallic gems of the finest American coin collections will be on display during the week of the association's convention in the Washington Hotel. Among these are specimens of every coin issued in the United States, both before and since independence, from the first regular minting in 1652 to the latest "proof sets." State coins will be shown and the entire United States issue of half cents, large cents, small cents, 2 and 3 cent pieces, both silver and nickel; silver half dimes, commemorative half dollars and such coin "freaks" as the "hard times tokens" of Jackson's administration and tokens issued during the Civil War to fill the need for small coins when regular issues had been depleted.

Large collections of Colonial paper money and obsolete bank bills of closed banks of Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia and a sample of every bill issued by the United States, including the fractional bills, which appeared about the same time as the first engraved paper currency, will be on view, and a special showing of the most noted collection of Confederate bills will be a decided feature of the exhibit.

MANY of the noted collectors of ancient coins will show their prize pieces, and there are, in addition, the modern coins of foreign nations, such as a complete collection of English crowns and another prize collection of uncirculated English colonial coins. Roman, Persian, Armenian, Chinese, Polish and Greek coins show the various types of ancient and modern coinage, and a small but complete collection of Saxe-Weimar gold is one of the most noted collections of its kind.

Despite the fact that there have been innumerable medals issued in

Numismatists (Coin Collectors to You) Will Display Hoards Containing Every Coin Minted in the United States Before and Since 1776 as Well as Curious Pieces From Foreign Lands at Convention This Month.

honor of the first President, the most important collection of these medals has one of each type and may be considered complete. Another great medal collection shows one of each issued in memory of Abraham Lincoln. One of the most interesting of the foreign exhibits is the vast collection of eighteenth century English tokens.

The convention this year marks the silver jubilee of the American Numismatic Association as a chartered organization. The membership has steadily grown until it covers the entire United States and many foreign countries, for its name has become known throughout the civilized world. Here in Washington the Washington Numismatic Society, a branch of the parent association, has a large membership and meets the second Tuesday in each month in its own headquarters in the Hotel Washington.

The officers of the association are generally selected from as wide an area as is consistent with good organization, and this year's officers which it is believed will be elected come from Chicago, New York City, San Francisco and El Paso, so that the group has a variety of ideas and plans for advancement of the science.

This year the association is celebrating not only its silver jubilee, but the most prosperous year in its history, for more advance has been made in the study of numismatics during 1936-37 and more interest has been aroused from the standpoint of the collector than at any time during its existence.

COINS have, since their beginning, been the object of interest and admiration of design, and the finer pieces have been zealously hoarded. In many lands coins became the means of expression for the most noted and skillful artists and sculptors, and today many of the gems of their artistry have fortunately been preserved for moderns to study.

The first known coinage was introduced by the Lydians about 750 B.C., although it is not generally believed these were issued under authority of the state. This belief comes from the rather poor shape, not at all like later issues from the same ancient peoples, and the wide difference which exists in the weight and purity of the same issue. The ancients, however, learned the value of standardization of their coinage, for it was not long before Croesus became the Emperor of the Asia Minor states and changed the crude Lydian pieces into disks of pure gold and silver. To this early financier the world owes the first definite figures on coins, mainly of the ox and the lion.

Coinage spread with great rapidity to the Ionian coastal states and to the islands in the Aegean Sea and thence on to Greece and her colonies

in Italy and Sicily. Thus by the time of the great Persian Wars, coins were in common usage in the cities of the Greek world. Much of the trade was carried on in Africa, Italy and the provinces of Asia Minor and as traders obtained goods in exchange for the gold of Greece, the coins of that nation were quite familiar to the peoples of the Mediterranean states.

These Persian Wars also marked the period of greatest development in the art of coin design, and from this time the human head became the main emblem of the coins. Formerly each coin had impressed upon it the badge or seal of the state issuing it, but with the introduction of the human head the seal of the state was removed from the obverse and appeared whenever desired on the reverse. This change in the markings on coins seemed to strike a popular response in all the coin-issuing states, for it gave the native artist a wide field in which to display his talents.

Thus coins, as we know them today, are minted in practically the same standard shape and design as those in early Roman periods. With new trade routes being rapidly opened, for the ancients were important traders and pioneers, coins came into common usage in the new colony almost as soon as a form of government was established.

WHEN colonists sought other shores for a new homeland, the coins of the mother country went with them and carried the same authority and exchange value as at home. Thus, in our own country, the Spanish doubloon became a familiar piece of money and various early deeds and contracts carried the stipulation that payment should be made in Spanish doubloons or similarly valued coins. The coming of the English in great emigrations brought coins of Great Britain. These were in general use until the organization of the Virginia company, the first attempt at organized colonization. In 1612 there appeared shillings, sixpences and threepences with the figure of a hog impressed on each. These coins formed the famous "Hogge" money of the Virginians, but its coinage did not receive the popular acclaim which regular issues of British coins enjoyed.

The first regular mint of the United States was established by resolution of the Continental Congress. Its location was Philadelphia, and its date of establishment April 6, 1792. Eleven months later this mint struck the first coins of the new Nation, the cent and half cent, on the obverse of which the bust of Liberty was impressed and, in accordance with the act establishing

the mint, the denomination of the piece on the reverse. Silver coins first appeared in 1794, and gold the following year. Part of the first mintings were distinct as to the designs, for the bust of the Goddess of Liberty on the silver coins depicted that lady with her hair hanging down her back, whereas on the gold coins of the following year Liberty wore the famous cap.

The act further prescribed that upon the reverse of each of the gold and silver coins there should be the figure or representation of an eagle, with the inscription, "United States of America." The word Liberty and, most naturally, the year of the coinage were other requirements. Changes have been made in the design of the devices, but the silver and gold coins of United States mintage have remained in almost every detail similar to the first issues from the Philadelphia mint.

With the addition of other States to the original 13 there came a decision to add a star for each State, but after the sixteenth State was thus commemorated, wise heads found this plan inconvenient, for if the Nation continued to grow as it gave early promise, stars would cover the reverse. The stars then were limited to 13.

The Civil War added materially to the design of the coins of the United States with the introduction of the inscription "In God We Trust." Appeals from many sources for some recognition of the Deity on our coins influenced the then Secretary of the Treasury, Samuel P. Chase, to forward the authorization for the inclusion, upon the obverse of our coins, of a motto expressing the trust of the American people in God, and in 1864 the motto as we know it today on our coins appeared first on a new 2-cent piece.

In 1830 there appeared gold coins of a private minting, struck at certain mints in the Southeastern and Far Western States. The quantities were small in the former but fairly large in the latter, due principally to the scarcity and wealth of material in the respective places. There seemed to be no real economic reason for this private minting, although the United States entered into negotiations with a private California firm to mint a number of gold coins. The establishment of the mint at San Francisco made unnecessary this contract, but the coins as minted by the private firms were readily accepted as legal tender. The reason was obvious, for they conformed in general to those of Government striking already in circulation. Today this California gold is much sought after by collectors and many pieces are found in the noted collections, both in private own-

ership and in the museums of the larger cities.

BY FAR the most interesting and artistic of present-day coinage is that of the commemorative coins, principally of the half-dollar silver variety, although at various times commemorative coins have been issued in gold. With each new issue a completely different design appears appropriate to the event which its issuance commemorates. Originally designed to commemorate events of national character, there have been various of these coins issued and others continue to be petitioned for which are in commemoration of events of little importance nationally, but their minting has resulted from a desire to show material pride in local history.

The first of these commemorative half dollars was the Columbian, issued coincident with the opening of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1892. As a matter of fact, the exposition was delayed one year in opening, but the first Columbian coins bore the date 1892. Approximately 1,000,000 of the 1892 issue and over 1,500,000 of the 1893 minting were placed in circulation, and today these Columbian half-dollars are many times found in regular circulation.

From then on commemorative appeared at frequent intervals, all minted at one mint in accordance with the provisions of the act authorizing the coinage. However, in 1935 these coins began to appear in sets, one from each of the present operating mints, Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco, and the single issue of the past became the triple issue of 1935.

The original intent to commemorate only events of national importance has seemingly been lost sight of in the rush of various groups to place some local celebration in the national eye. These groups organized for the purpose of celebrating the anniversary of the community's charter or even the change of name of the village or some celebration which exists only in the minds of the group, and lacking the necessary funds to prepare for such a celebration, took new heart when the subject of the commemorative coin was suggested. As a result, these groups, whose interest seems to run more to the price for which each coin shall be sold than to the commemoration of the event, have become quite active in having bills introduced in Congress for the minting of the particular coin.

Since the first issue in 1892 there have appeared 91 commemorative coins, 34 of them in the "commemorative" year 1936. True, all of these are not separate issues, but are separate mintings, for many of the issues were of such quantity that the mint-

ing at one mint or in one year would have flooded the country with that particular issue, which would have defeated the purpose of the sponsoring group. A remedy was found for this apparent oversight on the part of the group by obtaining permission to have the coins minted at the three mints and in succeeding years.

Congress is considering a bill to limit such coinage to commemorate events of national importance only and the issue to one mint and one year. This interesting discussion will no doubt continue on the floor of the convention, and delegates to the Silver Jubilee meeting are expected to live the sessions with debate.

SO FAR little has been said about the collector, although it is he who forms the nucleus of every numismatic group, for unless one collects coins he is unable to study satisfactorily the history of the peoples who issued them. The ancients for some reason did not make any serious attempt to collect specimens of their coinage in the sense that collecting is practiced today. Many of them did put aside certain of their coins, or of those which came into their hands through trade, which were struck in artistic designs or were unusual in their beauty, but the search for the various designs and coinages does not seem to have interested the early peoples.

Francesco Petrarca, the great fourteenth century poet and inaugurator of the Renaissance in Italy, is generally credited with being the first person to make any effort to amass a collection of coins. Since his time, however, the science has invited a tremendous following among all classes and nations. The fact that coins are minted in various values from the lowest to the most valuable makes the collection of coins a comparatively easy pastime for all classes and all ages.

It is not generally known that many of the world's finest collections are owned by Americans and many of the noted groups of coins and medals in our great museums represent the gift of some outstanding collector to the city of his birth. Possibly the fact that Americans are extensive world travelers is responsible for these collections being owned by our countrymen. They are thus able to visit the markets of the world or pick up choice pieces in the out-of-the-way corners of the globe which eventually become a part of their own collection or are traded for others in the collections of friends.

No doubt many an American collection has had its beginning as a result of one trip to a foreign land. Possibly some interesting foreign coin has been found in the change from a last-minute purchase without opportunity of exchange before sailing. It intrigues the traveler and he puts it aside for further study. It may be that its history interests him or it represents some interesting part of his trip. Whatever the reason, it will, in all probability, become the nucleus of another collection and thus a new collector comes into the widespread numismatic world.

Women Waited and Played Bridge While Under Fire in 1932.

By Florence King.

SAID "four spades" quite loudly so that my voice would be heard over the gunfire which had broken out again.

We were playing bridge at our apartment in Shanghai, which was only a matter of blocks, a mile at the very most, from the scene of the battle. It was just two blocks from the Cathay and Palace Hotels, where the Americans were killed in last week's accidental bombings. There were five of us present at the time and Betty Keene, who was helping her husband cover the Shanghai war for the Herald-Tribune, decided to cut out of the game and look for Vic and help him with his cables.

The four of us went on with the game. Elizabeth Harris, whose husband was the Associated Press correspondent; Alma Ekins, wife of H. R. Ekins of the United Press, whose by-line is seen on stories coming out of Shanghai today, and Tad Laval, wife of the editor of the Far Eastern Review, were the other players, and they were waiting for one of their husbands to come along and take them all home.

Shanghai was under martial law at the time, with curfew from 10 p.m. until 4 a.m., and without military or press credentials one did not appear on the streets unless he wanted to spend the remaining hours of restriction at the nearest jail. Rumor said that snipers would surely shoot at any person on the street at that hour, on the theory he was an enemy spy, but I don't think any one suffered from such an attack. I think the rumors did as much harm as the fighting down the street, as far as we were concerned. They certainly shook our nerves just as much.

THIS, of course, was in 1932. The papers called it the bloody Shanghai war, but no actual state of war existed, although relations between China and Japan were indeed strained. Thousands of soldiers of both sides were killed, thousands of helpless people were made homeless, business was at a standstill and foreign powers spent millions of dollars sending troops and battleships to protect their nations, but there was no war. No Americans or other non-combatants of the foreign nations in the International Settlement had been killed while driving peacefully along Avenue Edward VII in the middle of the day. Syl Honigsberg, who was killed there last week, was still dancing at the French Club and the Palace Hotel lobby was a place for tea or a cocktail. Even though the rumble of the guns was distinct, no bombs disturbed the life of the hotel.

Months after the 1932 situation quieted down I was a guest at the home of some Japanese friends when some one inadvertently referred to "the war." The host, a charming gentleman, drew in his breath in proper Japanese fashion and said, "You mean the recent diplomatic difference of opinion?"



Scenes like this, which show Chinese wounded being carried from Chapei in 1932, are being duplicated now in the new Sino-Japanese warfare. —Wide World Photo.

Today, as I read the papers, I find that these same diplomats, or others, have had another difference of opinion. Another "incident" is occurring in Shanghai.

Sometimes I wish I were back. It seems rather dull sitting at a desk in the Washington heat. But then I remember that in Shanghai one would find the heat of a misplaced bomb more annoying than the Washington humidity.

When curfew was in effect we would have dinner parties, with the guests arriving at 9:30. After dinner we would play bridge until 4 a.m., when the guests were free to go home. They were gay affairs and we laughed a lot. At least we tried to be gay, and if we laughed loudly enough the sound drowned out the droning of the planes and that incessant drumming of machine guns.

WE WOULD get sleepy during those bridge games, and then we would call for Woo to bring coffee and sandwiches. He would climb over his relatives in the kitchen and appear, smiling, at the door, hastily buttoning the collar of his white house coat.

The sandwiches and coffee always came, but it must have been difficult for Woo to prepare them. The kitchen wasn't very large, and his wife and 2-month-old son, her mother, his sister and his uncle were all huddled there. Woo assured me that they slept in the door, but every time I wanted to get in my kitchen at night the door would stick. Woo would come and make a great to-do about moving a stool or a box that seemed to have gotten in the way, and his activities would almost cover the noise of a large number of people getting to their feet and moving their mats into the hall.

Maybe it was insanitary but when people are homeless and the weather is at the freezing point that doesn't seem so important. Anyway the hall was crowded with the relatives of the lift boys, the watchmen and the other house boys and cooks in the building.

Woo was the sort of house boy flowery essays about the land of the lotus. He was 28 years old and delighted with position as No. 1 boy of the household. House serv-



Here we see Chinese refugees from Chapei living in the streets of the International Settlement business district in 1932. In the present struggle even the International Zone is not a safe retreat. —Wide World Photo.

ants in China are proud of their work and have a consciousness of their profession that is completely lacking in the American servant. Woo earned the equivalent of about \$7 a month, and through the years he had acquired clothes and furniture of which he was enormously proud.

HIS house was in an alley across from the Commercial Press, an organization that printed most of China's better books. This for some reason was a target for the Japanese air raids, and in the first day of bombing Woo's house burned to the ground. Fortunately, his entire family had come into the settlement earlier with hundreds of other refugees, but everything except the clothes on their backs was gone. When I tried, inadequately, to tell

him I was sorry his grave face never changed.

"Mei-yo fatsu," he said. "It is fate" is not a literal translation of that phrase, but it expresses the meaning.

These refugees had no food. It is always a problem for the lower classes in China to get enough to eat, and now it was tragic. A wealthy Chinese, who owned a half-completed building on Nanking road, turned it over as an emergency station. Chinese and foreigner joined hands to feed the poor, and every day groups of American and British women stood in back of steaming pots of rice in the mustiness of an unfinished building and filled the bowls held out by eager hands. A slice of pickle went with each bowl of rice, to prevent scurvy.

These curfew bridge games were generally women's parties exclusively. Almost all of the husbands were "on

duty." If they were not working for a newspaper organization, they belonged to the Shanghai Volunteer Corps or the special police and were, in a manner of speaking, at the front.

MOST of the people don't understand that Shanghai has its own defense force, regardless of the American Marines, the French battalion and the British regiment always on duty there. The commandant of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps is a ranking British officer, appointed in London. The officers have all been in actual service. The ranks, as the name implies, are filled solely with volunteers. These men drill at regular times, and although this may sound a little helterskelter to the professional soldier, the International Settlement can be defended by about 800 well-armed men within one hour from the time a state of emergency is declared.

The procedure is simple. When a state of emergency is declared by the Shanghai Municipal Council, the governing body of the International Settlement, all telephone service is suspended. A list of the members of the Volunteer Corps is always available at the telephone company, and at these times each operator is given a list of names with the home, office and club telephone numbers and the hours each man is likely to be found at each place. The operators do their work effectively, aided, of course, by the bamboo telegraph, a mysterious fashion in which news travels at an alarming speed throughout the entire East.

Regardless of business deals, card games or an excellent dinner, the men go at once to the mobilization points, where they are armed and sent to various sectors. It is not surprising that in a community where, from a variety of causes, peace is threatened as often as it is in Shanghai, the men who have volunteered to defend their families, their homes and their business learn to get into action with incredible rapidity.

THE International Settlement at Shanghai was ceded to the foreign powers as part of the peace terms following the Boxer rebellion. Britain, America and France wanted territory where they could maintain troops to protect their interests. What hap-

Evacuation Notices Mean That Foreigners Must Desert Property.

opened in Peking in 1900 was not to occur again if the foreign powers could prevent it.

The Chinese agreed to turn over the land and the papers were signed and sealed. When the foreigners claimed their settlement they found that the settlement, as well as the Chinese city of Shanghai, was composed entirely of mud flats, a good bit of which was below sea level. That is what the word Shanghai means when translated. It is taken from shang-to, which means below, and hai, which means ocean. The word is pronounced, by those who are scrupulously correct, "Shong-hi."

From this grew the modern city that is called the Paris of the Orient. There are modern apartments and hotels—the Cathay and the Palace now, the papers say, separated by a large bomb hole; Hall and Holtz and Whiteaway, Laidlaw, English-owned department stores staffed by Chinese and Russian clerks, up the street. Wing On and Sun Sun, Chinese-owned-and-operated department stores; Kelly and Walsh and the Chinese-American Book Store, where one can find any stationary need, from a package of pen points to the latest novel or a subscription to The Washington Star; up-to-date theaters, the list headed by the Nanking, the Grand and the Capitol, where pictures are shown a very few weeks after their release from Hollywood. The Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, which compares favorably with many orchestras in this country, gives weekly Sunday night concerts throughout the Winter. There are three country clubs—the Country Club, which is British; the Columbia, which is American, and Cercle Sportif Francaise, known to one and all, as the French Club.

SHANGHAI has a large and varied police force, headed, as is the volunteer corps, by a London appointee. A few of the official positions are also filled by Britishers. The lieutenants are Russian and the constables, whose duties coincide with those of a Washington patrolman, are Chinese. Traffic is directed by Sikh policemen, those 6-foot East Indians, whose blue uniforms and long black beards are topped by gaudy turbans, the color denoting the wearer's tribe and caste.

The telephone, power and gas companies, which serve the International Settlement and French concession, are foreign-owned. These companies, however, may not place any of their equipment on 1 inch of Chinese territory without special permission from the Chinese government and the Chinese utility companies. This creates a problem for the large number of foreigners who live in Chinese territory just outside of the Settlement boundary. I have known these people to live in their houses for months without lights or telephones, while correspondence and personal calls were exchanged by all concerned during negotiations for the extra few feet of wire on the Chinese side.

(See SHANGHAI, Page F-2.)